

with grey, more purely buff on lower tail-coverts and wing-lining, and more rufescent on tibial plumes; inner webs of primaries and secondaries hair-brown. The young birds are much paler and more albescent on the lower surface.

This is a very distinct species, widely spread over the country. I have it from Mount Aboo, Gurhwal, and Kamoah, collected by Dr. King; from Niher, Mahableschwur, collected by the Rev. H. Bruce; from Naipoor, collected by F. R. Blewitt, Esq.; from Etawah, collected by myself; and Mr. Brooks tells me he has it from two or three other localities. The birds vary very much in size, the young being considerably smaller than the adults, and the females being always much smaller than the males. Some quite young birds entirely lack the rufescent tinge which is so characteristic of this species, and which, in the newly moulted adult, approaches that of *Pyctorhis sinensis*. The plumage fades much by exposure; and adults just previously to moulting are met with of a dull rufous grey.

I may add that when recently staying with me, Mr. Brooks went very carefully over all these species, comparing them with nearly allied forms. He agrees with me both as to their novelty and in assigning them to the genera under which I have placed them.

XIV.—*Descriptions of Two Genera of Paradiseidæ, with remarks on some of the Species.* By D. G. ELLIOT, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

THE species commonly placed by authors in the genus *Sericulus*, and known to ornithologists as *S. aureus*, presents so many characters not found in the Regent Bird, that it has seemed to me necessary to acknowledge the generic name *Xanthomelus* proposed for it by Bonaparte (Ann. d. Sc. Nat. ser. iv. Zool. 1854, p. 122; C. R. xxxviii. 1854, p. 538), and to separate it entirely from the species with which it has generally been united. That *Sericulus* has not been deemed the proper genus for this bird is evident by the way it has been removed by different authors from one genus to another. Thus Linnæus considered it an Oriole, and placed it in his genus *Oriolus*. Many authors have given it a position in *Paradisea* among the typical Birds of

Paradise; and Shaw included it in *Lophorina*; while the majority of writers retained it in *Sericulus*.

The genus *XANTHOMELUS* may be defined as follows:—

Bill—culmen straight at base, curving rapidly towards the tip; upper mandible broad at base, nostrils open and exposed, feathers of forehead touching their posterior rim; cutting-edges of lower mandible curving slightly downwards; the tips of both upper and lower toothed. Head crested; plumes of the back greatly lengthened, capable of being elevated. The wings of the specimen before me are not quite complete; but apparently the first and second of the secondaries are equal and longest. The tail is rounded, while that of *Sericulus* is slightly forked. Feathers loose and soft, only those around the base of the upper mandible being short and velvety like those of the head of *Sericulus*.

The only known species is

XANTHOMELUS AUREUS.

Golden Bird of Paradise, Lath. Gen. Syn. (1782) vol. ii. p. 483.

Oriolus aureus, Linn. Syst. Nat. (1766) vol. i. p. 163. sp. 19; Vieill. Ency. Méth. (1823) vol. ii. p. 695. no. 5; Gray, Hand-l. Birds (1869), pt. i. p. 293. sp. 4332.

Paradisea aurea, Lath. Ind. Orn. (1790) vol. ii. p. 195, sp. 11.

Lophorina aurantia, Shaw, Gen. Zool. (1826) vol. xiv. p. 76.

Sericulus aurantiacus, Less. Ois. Parad. (1835) p. 201, pl. 25, 25 bis, 25 ter.

Sericulus aureus, Bon. Consp. Av. (1850) p. 349. sp. 1.

Xanthomelus aureus, Bp., *ut supra*; Gray, Hand-l. pt. i. p. 293.

Hab. New Guinea.

In a paper lately published in the 'Tijdschr. v. de Dierkunde,' Prof. Schlegel described a bird from New Guinea as *Sericulus xanthogaster*: I have by his permission been able to bring the specimen (together with one of the bird next described) to London, and have carefully examined them. The former does not belong to *Sericulus* (represented, as now restricted, by *S. melinus*)—which has the head covered with short upright feathers like those of the typical bird of Paradise, but destitute of crest.

The present bird has its closest affinity to the *Chlamydodera cerviniventris* of Gould, and should be included in that genus. According to Prof. Schlegel the sexes of this species are alike, which is also the case with those of the *C. cervineiventris*. The specimens appear to be fully adult; and their sex was ascertained by dissection by Von Rosenberg, who procured them in the interior of New Guinea. Like the majority of the Bower-birds, *C. xanthogastra* is rather plain-looking, being brown above and bright yellow beneath, destitute even of any nuchal band of bright colours, which some species of the genus possess—resembling in this fact, however, *C. cerviniventris*. The acquisition of a second species of this group of birds is very interesting; and doubtless, when the unknown wilds of the great island of New Guinea become accessible to scientific explorers, other and more extraordinary new forms will be discovered. The species will therefore be known as

CHLAMYDODERA XANTHOGASTRA.

Sericulus xanthogaster, Schleg. Tijdsch. v. d. Dierk. iv. p. 50 (1871).

Hab. New Guinea.

The other species to which I referred above as having been described by Prof. Schlegel in the same paper, was placed by him in the genus *Ptilonorhynchus*, and named *P. inornatus*. It, however, differs greatly from the *P. violaceus* (*holosericeus* auct.), the only species now representing that genus, in wanting the feathers projecting over the bill and hiding the nostril (one of the principal characters of *Ptilonorhynchus*), and also in having a very different structure of feather. The sexes, according to Von Rosenberg, are the same in the colour of their plumage, while those of *P. violaceus* are widely different. I have therefore regarded it as representing a new generic form, which I propose to call

AMBLYORNIS,

with the following characters—

Bill short, thick, culmen much curved, gonyes nearly straight; nostrils partly hidden by the feathers of the forehead, which are soft and flexible. A few short bristles project forwards over

the culmen and nostrils, which last are round, open, and partly exposed. Wings moderate, fourth primary longest. Tail very slightly rounded, composed of ten feathers. Toes slender, middle one nearly as long as the tarsus, outer longer than the inner one.

The only species known is

AMBLYORNIS INORNATA.

Ptilonorhynchus inornatus, Schleg. Tijdsch. v. d. Dierk. pt. v. p. 51 (1871).

Head and upper part of back rufous brown; rest of upper parts dark brown. Wings rufous brown; primaries dark brown. Entire underparts dark buff. Tail dark brown. Bill, feet, and tarsi black. The specimen is marked as a male; but it may possibly be one in immature dress, and the full-plumaged male may have a very different appearance from the one described in this paper; but that fact the acquisition of additional specimens in all stages can alone determine.

Hab. Interior of New Guinea.

XV.—*Supplementary Notes to 'The Birds of India.'* By T. C. JERDON, F.L.S., F.Z.S., Retired Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, Madras.

[Continued from p. 22.]

(Plate VII.)

256. *LANIUS LAHTORA.*

This Shrike is now known to extend to Eastern Africa, *L. pallens* of Cassin, and *L. dealbatus*, De Fil., being considered synonyms.

257. *LANIUS ERYTHRONOTUS.*

Mr. Blyth, in his commentary, appears to have accepted my joining his *L. caniceps* with *L. erythronotus*; but Hume and others still consider them distinct; and I am now inclined to agree with them, and place it as another species:—

257 *bis.* *LANIUS CANICEPS*, Blyth.

Besides the distinctions pointed out in the text, Hume states